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**“Marriage between Islam and Culture”**

Do you know that marriage in Islam is an act of worship? According to the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him) he said, “When a man gets married, he gets one half of the religion” (islambasics.com, par 3). It means after a man is married, he completes an important part of the religion. Marriage in our religion is really important, especially for men, because in our culture, almost all the men couldn’t live without women, but the women could live without men. That is the reason to allow a man to marry four women. Also, the women in our culture worry about their children more than about their husbands. For example, if any woman from my country is widowed or divorced and she has children, she prefers to take care of her children more than to marry again. Some people from different cultures and religions mix up our religion and culture. Our culture has a lot of mistakes and it came from an old culture before Islam, so Islam came to correct those mistakes in Arab culture. There are two articles written by Elie Elhadj, and another by Reem Sultan. The first author wrote about “In Defense of Pre-Islamic Arabian Culture”, and the second author wrote about “Marriage in Islam”. Culture and Islam are so different in marriage; Islam had different rules from our culture. Every culture has bad rules, especially about issues of honor. This issue is the most famous issue in the Middle East and India. Also this issue is not related to religion but to culture. If we looked up in the law for the punishment for man and woman in honor issue, we will see that the punishment in our culture is just for the woman and the man is free, but in our religion both of them should take their punishment equally, and it depends if they are married or not.

One of the mistakes in our culture is, if a woman and a man get engaged in Islam, they have the right to see each other, but in our culture they don’t have any right to see each other. Clearly, in Islam if the man decides to marry, his female relatives start to look for a girl who fits with his requirements. After they find a girl, they go to ask her family for marriage. Now her family starts to ask about the man who asked them for their daughter. If they find that he is a good man and he fits with their daughter, they go to ask the girl if she accepts him. Then the man comes to see the girl who wants to marry him and she can see the man who asked her to marry. After that, both of them have a few days to decide about the marriage. In the case of the woman, her family asked her, and if she answers “no” that is clear for them, but if she doesn’t give an answer because she is shy, that means she accepts him to marry. In the case of the man, if he comes back again for this family that means he likes her and he wants to marry her. But in our culture, the marriage in the beginning is the same as in Islam, but in the middle it is different, because some of the families don’t ask their daughter for marriage, they just choose for her what they want, and they never ask her opinion or let her see the man who will marry her until the night of the wedding. So these unfair rules for our culture are not related to Islam.

According to Reem Sultan, seems essential to discuss marriage forms, which existed before Islam. In those days many kinds of different marriages existed; there was no limit on the number of wives that any one man could have”(www.zawaj.com, par 1). In other words, Reem Sultan said, that marriage before Islam came had many forms for different marriages, and the men could have unlimited wives. So Islam came and put a rule to save women’s right that the men could not marry more than four wives. So that’s why we said that Islam took our grandfathers, our grandmothers, and us, from darkness to the light. You can’t imagine that the people lived in Jahiliyya age (the people who lived before Islam). Elie Elhadj wrote, “The pre-Islamic epoch in Arabia has become commonly known as the age of Jahiliyya, meaning the age of barbarism, darkness, and ignorance of God’s guidance” (daringopinion.com, par 1). Basically, Elie Elhadj is saying that the period before Islam in Arab land was known as Jahiliyya because the people in that period were illiterate and uneducated, and the time was darkness and a time lost from God’s commands. Also, that proves that Islam came to give the people a better life.

Marriage in Islam is so important for a lot of reasons. Reem Sultan said, “Reproduction in an organized wholesome manner is admittedly the ultimate objective in the institution of marriage” (http://www.zawaj.com, par 5). Reem Sultan believes that marriage is a kind of cloning in healthy orders and the final goals are to stay in married life. In addition to that, there are a lot of different reasons to support the importance of marriage. Such as, adultery has become a crime in Islam, so the best solution for that is marriage.

In conclusion, both authors wrote about Islam. Elie Elhadj offered in his article about the time before Islam and wrote about the similarity of things between Islam and Jahiliyya. Reem Sultan dealt with marriage in Islam, and she includes many important topics in her article, such as, marriage as an exclusive relationship, significance of marriage and functions of marriage. Finally, I tried to explain the difference between Islam and our culture in marriage. I have given some examples from our culture, and how it showed wrong rules. Islam has solutions for every problem. I hope you like what I wrote about my religion and my culture.

Work Cited

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